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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBY #0050 0160203
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 160203Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0824
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9317
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0474
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3565
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2363
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1516
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1502
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2269
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0481
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0296
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1979
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000050

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS HHS/E CLARKE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO KSCA AS
SUBJECT: SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL ISOTOPES - REQUEST FOR
CLARIFICATION

REF: A. A) STATE 135295
1B. B) ALBRIGHT-CLARKE EMAIL OF JANUARY 15

11. (SBU) Embassy Canberra contacted the Canadian Embassy in Canberra January 6 (following Canadian Embassy's reopening following its New Years holiday closure) to discuss reftel request for a joint approach to the GOA concerning the shortage of medical isotopes. The Canadian diplomat said she had not heard about this request, and although helpful, said she would have to contact Ottawa before we could take action.

12. (SBU) On January 16, she called econoff and said that the demarche hasn't been "signed off" within the Canadian government. She indicated that the GOC was working with "Washington counterparts" on how and when any approach should be done.

13. (SBU) Action request: Post requests Department and/or HHS confirm whether reftel demarche is still operative. Further details such as the timing of a possible "strategic dialogue" among the U.S., Canada, and others would also be useful. POC in Canberra is Wendell Albright, email albrightwi@state.gov

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